

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to Office Action mailed September 26, 2007 in the above-identified application. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following comments, reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 were previously pending in the application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended solely to correct a minor error. Claim 15 is amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 16, and claims 17 and 18 are amended to depend from claim 15. Claims 7 and 16 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-6, 8-15 and 17-22 are currently pending, with claims 1, 8, 15 and 19 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

The rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, has been obviated by the cancellation of claim 7.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Ugon (U.S. 7,036,002). The rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the amended claims.

Ugon discloses a method for using multiple working memories to improve microprocessor security. Ugon describes switching means which, during the performance of a main program and a secondary program, makes it possible to switch from using one of two working memories to using the other working memory, while preserving their contents (Abstract). In one embodiment, Ugon teaches that the secondary program triggers a waiting loop of which the length of time depends on a random number, and that the main program can resume its normal process as soon as the secondary program transmits the new control to it (col. 6, line 66 to col. 7, line 8). In another embodiment, Ugon teaches that it is possible to use as a secondary program a part of the main program initially pointing to an address chosen at random (col. 7, lines 46-51).

Claim 1 is directed to an antifraud method comprising randomizing a physical signature of an integrated circuit executing a main program, comprising providing in said main program a branch to a randomly chosen address of a subprogram having at least a feature that any operation code that it contains directly or indirectly leads to an instruction included in the same subprogram except for at least one instruction for returning to the main program, and the whatever the input address in this subprogram, the execution of said instruction for returning returns to the main calling program at the instruction immediately following the instruction having caused said branching to the subprogram, to randomize a total execution time of the main program.

Ugon does not disclose or suggest an antifraud method including a subprogram which contains an instruction for returning to a main calling program at the instruction immediately following the instruction having caused branching to the subprogram, as required by claim 1. Ugon does not teach an antifraud method as claimed, nor does a combination of the embodiments described by Ugon lead to the claimed invention. Instead, Ugon discloses embodiments which include the use of a timing generator to generate a random time for returning to the main program and using part of the main program to interrupt operation of the main program. For at least these reasons, claim 1 is clearly and patentably distinguished over Ugon, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 and are patentable over Ugon for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Regarding claim 8, Ugon does not disclose or suggest branching or jumping from a main program to a randomly selected address in a subprogram, and executing the subprogram from the randomly selected address to an instruction for returning to the main program. Instead, Ugon discloses embodiments which include the use of a timing generator to generate a random time for returning to the main program and using part of the main program to interrupt operation of the main program. For at least these reasons, claim 8 is clearly and patentably distinguished over Ugon, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-14 depend from claim 8 and are patentable over Ugon for at least the same reasons as claim 8.

Regarding amended claim 15, Ugon does not disclose or suggest randomizing a total execution time of a main program by branching or jumping from the main program to a randomly selected address in a subprogram, executing the subprogram from the randomly selected address to an instruction for returning to the main program, and resuming execution of the main program following returning from the subprogram. Instead, Ugon describes embodiments which include the use of a timing generator to generate a random time for returning to the main program and using part of the main program to interrupt operation of the main program. For at least these reasons, amended claim 15 is clearly and patentably distinguished over Ugon, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 17 and 18 depend from claim 15 and are patentable over Ugon for at least the same reasons as claim 15.

Regarding claim 19, Ugon does not disclose or suggest means for branching or jumping from a main program to a randomly selected address in a subprogram, and means for executing the subprogram from the randomly selected address to an instruction for returning to the main program. Instead, Ugon discloses a timing generator which generates a random time for returning to the main program, and using part of the main program to interrupt operation of the main program. For at least these reasons, amended claim 19 is clearly and patentably distinguished over Ugon, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 20-22 depend from claim 19 and are patentable over Ugon for at least the same reasons as claim 19.

Based upon the above discussion, claims 1-6, 7-15 and 17-22 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Dated: December 26, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By: William R. McClellan/
William R. McClellan
Registration No. 29,409
Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, P.C.
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2206
Telephone: (617) 646-8000